

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE:0013

INQUIRE=DOC9D
ITEM NO=00188889

CDS

C 53281STATE 190181 140025ZSCO 88-9246401

F

MIDB

S

UPID

/ /

CONFIDENTIAL

FRP: , , , , , 6 , ,

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: DOMDS, DONOVA, EPO/EUR, ODPB-B, ODPD-D,
ODPS-S, OPCTR/EEWE, RF, STATDICT, FILE, EUR/BNL, EUR/RR, EUR/SA,
FBIS/WE-2, NIO/EUR, OMS/EHPMO, OTE/PSC, PPS/PG, (10/W)

88 9246401 SCO

PAGE 001

NC 9246401

TOR: 140025Z JUN 88

STATE 190181

HEADER

OO RUEAIIB

ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH

OO RUEHC RUFHVI RUEHBS RUFHOL

DE RUEHC #0181 1652353

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

O 132348Z JUN 88

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUFHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE 7667

RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 7345

INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 0117

BT

CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190181

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

BODY

TAGS: PREL., CASC, AU, BE

SUBJECT: OSI REPORT ON BELGIAN-AUSTRIAN WAR CRIMINAL

--

REF: STATE 27510 (EXDIS) OF 1/29/88 (NOT TO BONN)

THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: THE OSI REPORT ON EX-NAZI ROBERT JAN VERBELEN (REFTEL) HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE IN WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16. EMBASSIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY

3. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ALERTED BY DOJ THAT THE OSI REPORT ON VERBELEN WILL BE RELEASED JUNE 16. THIS REPORT, BECAUSE IT DETAILS (REFTEL) VERBELEN'S WARTIME CRIMES, SUBSEQUENT WORK FOR U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE, AND PERMANENT REFUGEE IN AUSTRIA, MAY ATTRACT CONTROVERSY IN

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

RECEIVED
JUN 16 1988
STATE DEPT
OSI

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} DoJ/OSI
state

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE:0014

BELGIUM, AUSTRIA, OR ELSEWHERE. IN VIEW OF THIS POSSIBILITY, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THE AUSTRIAN AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENTS AS A COURTESY SHOULD BE ALERTED. DOJ IS ANXIOUS THAT ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REPORT'S PUBLICATION NOT BE PREEMPTED PUBLICLY; TO REDUCE THE CHANCE OF LEAKS, THE GOVERNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN ONLY A FEW HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE.

4. DEPARTMENT PLANS TO BRIEF AUSTRIAN AND BELGIAN EMBASSIES THE MORNING OF JUNE 16, AND WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH COPIES OF THE REPORT IF THEN AVAILABLE. (DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET SEEN A COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT, BUT IS ASSURED BY DOJ THAT IT IS IDENTICAL IN SUBSTANCE TO THE DRAFT REPORT SUMMARIZED REFTEL.)

5. ACTION: EMBASSIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS NOT EARLIER THAN THE MORNING OF THURSDAY, JUNE 16, EUROPEAN TIME, THUS GIVING AT LEAST SIX HOURS ADVANCE OVER THE WASHINGTON RELEASE. (BRIEFINGS AT POST ARE AT YOUR CHOICE: IF YOU JUDGE THAT SUCH A BRIEFING IS NOT NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE, YOU MAY DELAY OR OMIT IT.) YOUR BRIEFING MAY INCLUDE: THAT THE REPORT IS BEING RELEASED JUNE 16 IN WASHINGTON; THAT THE AUSTRIAN AND BELGIAN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON WILL RECEIVE COPIES OF THE REPORT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE; AND (DRAWING AT YOUR DISCRETION UPON REFTEL) A SUMMARY OF THE FACTS IN THE REPORT. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE URGED TO DEFER COMMENT UNTIL THEY HAVE READ THE COMPLETE REPORT. EMBASSIES MAY ALSO DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE, WHICH HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE ONCE THE REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED AND IS DECLASSIFIED UPON USE.

6. BEGIN PRESS GUIDANCE:

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE REPORT, RELEASED THIS MORNING BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, ABOUT A BELGIAN-BORN NAZI CRIMINAL WHO NOW LIVES IN AUSTRIA?

A: -- THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS RELEASED A REPORT, PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF ROBERT JAN VERBELEN, A BELGIAN-AUSTRIAN EX-NAZI.

-- THIS REPORT DEALS WITH VERBELEN'S WORLD WAR II CRIMES AND HIS SUBSEQUENT WORK FOR U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE IN AUSTRIA DURING THE LATE 1940'S AND EARLY 1950'S.

-- THE REPORT, WHICH HAS BEEN IN PREPARATION SINCE 1984, IS A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT. IT DOES NOT RELATE TO ANY ON-GOING CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE:0015

- COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE.
- ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

END TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE.

ARMACOST

ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL